

30 August 2024

Whinney Hill Landfill Site

Community Update

Month	Number of reports	Types of report
June	65	Gulls/Odour
July	301	Gulls/Odour/Vermin
August	47	Gulls/Odour

Current Situation

Over the month of August there has been some reduction in the reports about odour and those related to Gulls. Whilst we don't feel that this situation is resolved, observations made by regulatory officers during a visit to site on Thursday 29 August noted there was less odour around the site, and at the time of the visit there appeared to be less gulls present. Our officers will continue to carry out frequent odour checks within the community.

Our Regulation

We are holding regular meetings with members of the Suez Management and communications team to understand what they are doing to provide assurance that they are considering all methods to control both odour and reduce the impact from gulls on the community.

Our recent visits to the site show that Suez are meeting the conditions of the permit and using appropriate methods to minimise the areas of tipping on the landfill to minimise odour and are covering that material at the end of the day to help reduce the odour risk.

Landfill cover involves the use of suitable material to cover the tipping area that amongst other aspects is neither odorous or containing organic material (attractive to pests). More information can be found via the link on our webpage, or on the Government website:

Link to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/landfill-operators-environmental-permits/develop-and-maintain-management-plans#landfill-cover>

We will continue to carry out compliance visits more regularly, some of those will be unannounced, we will also consider making visits over the weekend. We have had reports that waste is not being covered overnight, we will look closely at these reports.

There are regular checks being carried out by the operator on the landfill gas infrastructure and gas extraction to make sure there are no uncontrolled emissions.

Customer Service line 03708 506 506

Floodline 03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

30 August 2024

Updating the community

We will update our webpage with answers to any frequently asked questions, and will also place our recent compliance report on the page as soon as we can. There is a minimum of 28 days from when we issue the reports to the operator to the date that we can publish them.

We will aim to produce another community update in mid-September and will review the frequency of any future updates at that point. We will be attending a community liaison meeting in early October. At that meeting we will update on the numbers of reports received, the most recent compliance information and take away questions that we will post on the webpage:

Link To: [Information on Whinney Hill Landfill Site, Accrington, Lancashire - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://environment-agency.gov.uk/information-on-whinney-hill-landfill-site-accrington-lancashire)

We are also working alongside other partners including the UKHSA, Lancashire County Council and Hyndburn Council to keep them informed about our regulation and to understand any actions they are taking to improve the current situation for the local community.

Reporting the issue

Reporting helps us to build up a picture of the extent and impact of the pest and odour issue within the community. We encourage people to report to us on our 24-hour incident hotline: **0800 807060**

Or via email: incident_communication_service@environment-agency.gov.uk

We would advise members of the community to contact NHS 111 or their GP if they have concerns about their health and need advice.